(c) and (d) As per the information received from State Government of Orissa, on an invitation from Orissa Society of America, Prof. Pandav Nayak, Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University visited the United States, in his individual capacity and during his visit he in his personal capacity had discussions with some of the US Universities.

Students going abroad for higher education

2447. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Indian students are going abroad for higher studies; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated number of students going abroad for this purpose per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) With the economic and financial reforms set in motion by the Government since 1991, there has been an internationalization of higher education through institutional linkage, increase in students mobility and offering of programmes across international boundaries. According to the available data, 6,918 students went abroad for higher studies during the year 1998-99. For 2001-02 a newspaper report is giving a much larger number of Indian students going to US for higher studies.

Introduction of New Books

2448. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced some new history and other subject books recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that half of the time of the new academic year has passed;

(d) if so, whether students have been asked to opt for new books;

(e) if so, whether Government are aware that the students are facing difficulty to cover these new books in short time; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Based on the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2000 and the revised syllabi thereof, NCERT has introduced new text books for all subjects in Classes I, III, VI, IX & XI, in the current academic year. The release of Hindi, History and Social Sciences text books was delayed because of stay orders of the Supreme Court, which were vacated on September 12, 2002.

(e) and (f) The Government has not received any communication regarding difficulty being faced by students to cover the new books.

Social Science text books by opposition parties

2449. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the rejection of National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) and the NCERT's social science text books, brought out by the opposition parties in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether States can reject the NCFSE since the Education is in the concurrent list; and

(d) why Government have failed to consult State Governments before any change in the National Education Policy was introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The NCFSE has been prepared keeping in view the provisions in the existing policy and finalized after a wide ranging consultative process, including consultation with the State Governments. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2000 has also been examined